

w/b 3rd January 2016 - JESUS INTRODUCES THE HOLY SPIRIT

Questions for small groups (Dave Webb-Peploe)

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit - John 14: 15-27

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever -¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

²¹Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

²²Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" ²³Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵"All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

LAUNCH

- If you like or love someone how do you tend to show that affection? What are some of the unusual ways in which we can show affection?
- In the sermon it was suggested that we needed a sermon series on the Holy Spirit in order to introduce new believers to the Holy Spirit, avoid a drift back into evangelicalism and get a chance to do the 'stuff' (Wimber). Do you agree with this analysis? What would church life without the Spirit look like?

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

- When Jesus asks his disciples 'if you love me', what sort of love is he talking about?
- How might this 'love' be different from other types of love?
- Love and obedience seem an unlikely pairing. What is obedience usually associated with? In what way do you see love and obedience combining in the way that Jesus sees it? What motivates this combination?

- In reading John 13:34 -35 and Matthew 22:34-40 what are the core commandments that Jesus has given to his disciples?
- If your closest friend were to question your obedience to Christ how might they begin to do so?
- The word helper can also be translated comforter, strengthener and advocate.
In what ways does the Holy Spirit carry out these roles?
How have you experienced him carrying out these roles in your life in recent months?
- What other attributes of the Spirit can we learn from Psalm 139:7-10 and Luke 1:35-37?
- The Holy Spirit is spirit. The Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is a person and personal.
How does this passage speak of these 3 key truths?
How does a profound knowledge of them assist you in your daily life?
- *“Trying to do the Lord’s work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you.” - Corrie Ten Boom*
The Corrie Ten Boom quote is striking. How have you known this to be true of your own life?
- How are you fighting to make space for him in your daily routine?
- Jesus was under tremendous pressure but still showed outstanding love towards his disciples?
How have you been challenged to show love when under pressure?

APPLICATION

- Pray that over this series you will come to know the person of the Holy Spirit more, that he will become a closer friend and that he will live powerfully in each one of us

(Some questions used or adapted from Eagle Christian Church study on this passage available online)